

## Message Text

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TO USNMR SHAPE BE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 095847

EXDIS MILITARY ADDEE HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOLLOWING REPEAT ATHENS 3107 ACTION SECSTATE, INFO ANKARA,  
NICOSIA, USNATO 13 APR.

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 3107

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, NATO, MPOL, GR, US

SUBJECT: FOLLOW-UP ON CLARIFICATION ON EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN  
PROGRAM

REF: ATHENS 2702

1. WE HAVE NOT AS YET GONE BACK TO AMBASSADOR TZOUNIS  
IN CONNECTION WITH THE POINTS HE RAISED ON APRIL 1  
CONCERNING THE GREECE-NATO TALKS (PARAS 9-11 OF REFTEL).  
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SINCE THEN,GOG CONCERN OVER THE AEGEAN NAVAL COMMAND  
ISSUE HAS ALSO BEEN RAISED BY MINISTER AVEROFF WITH THE  
AMBASSADOR AND BY THE CHIEF OF THE HELLENIC NAVY GEN-  
ERAL STAFF, ADMIRAL KONOFAOS, WITH THE DEFENSE ATTACHE,  
BOTH ON APRIL 12. (SEE ALSO DAO THENS IR 6-837-130-78, DTG  
131230Z APR 78 WHICH DESCRIBES GREEK NAVY'S WITHDRAWAL FROM  
NATO CPX APRIL 9 BECAUSE OF THIS VERY POINT.)

2. AVEROFF AND KONOFAS BOTH MADE THE SAME POINT WHICH TZOUNIS HAD MADE EARLIER TO THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR, I.E. THAT WHILE GOOD PROGRESS WAS BEING MADE IN RESOLVING THE VARIOUS ISSUES IN CONNECTION WITH THE "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP" GREECE WAS NEGOTIATING WITH NATO, NATO'S ALLEGED INSISTENCE ON THE TASK FORCE COMMANDER CONCEPT, TO REPLACE THE AREA COMMANDER CONCEPT, WOULD INEVITABLY LEAD TO A BREAKDOWN IN THOSE NEGOTIATIONS. ALL THREE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE GOG COULD NOT ACCEPT NAVAL COMMAND ARRANGEMENTS UNDER THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WHICH WOULD BE LESS FAVORABLE FOR GREECE THAN THOSE EXISTING BEFORE GREECE WITHDREW FROM THE MILITARY WING OF THE ALLIANCE. MINISTER AVEROFF MADE A FURTHER POINT RELATING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TASK FORCE COMMANDER CONCEPT TO THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN THE AEGEAN AS IT IS AFFECTED BY THE GREEK-TURKISH DISPUTE OVER THE CONTINENTAL SHELF. ITS ACCEPTANCE BY THE GOG, HE ARGUED, WOULD BE VIEWED BY THE TURKS AS A SIGN OF GREEK WEAKNESS.

3. THE NAVAL COMMAND CONTROVERSY HAS APPEARED IN THE PRESS IN THE PAST BUT WAS LINKED FOR THE FIRST TIME TO THE ONGOING GREECE-NATO DISCUSSIONS IN AN APRIL 13 ARTICLE IN INDEPENDENT KATHIMERINI (WHICH USUALLY TAKES A PRO-GOVERNMENT LINE AND HAS GOOD SOURCES IN THE GOG). ACCORDING TO THIS ARTICLE, A GREEK MILITARY COMMITTEE CONFIDENTIAL

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CONDUCTED EXPLORATORY DISCUSSIONS AT SHAPE RECENTLY IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE GREEK NATO "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP" TALKS. THE PURPOSE WAS TO EXPLAIN GREEK VIEWS, THE ARTICLE SAID, AND THE COMMITTEE'S VISIT TO SHAPE WAS DESCRIBED AS A CONTINUATION OF THE DISCUSSIONS WHICH GENERAL DAVOS HAD HAD WITH GENERAL HAIG LAST MONTH AT A TECHNICAL MILITARY LEVEL. NATO'S REPLIES TO THE GREEK VIEWS ARE EXPECTED NO LATER THAN MAY, THE ARTICLE WENT ON, WHICH WOULD STILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR NEGOTIATIONS TO BE COMPLETED, AS THE GREEKS WANT, BY THE END OF JUNE. THE ARTICLE THEN CITES DIPLOMATIC SOURCES IN BRUSSELS AS SAYING THAT THE GREEK SIDE IS WAITING FOR ANSWERS FROM NATO TO INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING: (A) SETTLEMENT OF THE OPERATIONAL NAVAL COMMAND PROBLEM IN THE AEGEAN, (B) AIR DEFENSE (THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION BETWEEN GREECE AND NATO): AND (C) THE STATUS OF GREEK FORCES IN THE EVENT OF "AUTOMATIC MOBILIZATION" UNDER THE NATO ALERT SYSTEM.

4. ACTION REQUEST: ALTHOUGH WE WOULD AGREE THAT THE EMBASSY SHOULD NOT BECOME OFFICIALLY INVOLVED IN BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GOG CONCERNING THESE

MULTILATERAL MATTERS WHICH SHOULD PROPERLY BE HANDLED IN NATO CHANNELS, WE OWE THE GOG SOME KIND OF USG COMMENT IN VIEW OF TZOUNIS' DIRECT REQUEST (REFTEL) AND THE FACT MINISTER AVEROFF HAS RAISED THE MATTER DIRECTLY WITH THE AMBASSADOR AND ADMIRAL KONOFAOS WITH THE DEFENSE ATTACHE. WE WOULD, THEREFORE, APPRECIATE RECEIVING GUIDANCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT ON HOW WE SHOULD RESPOND TO THE GOG ON THIS ISSUE.

6. THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO REPEAT THIS MESSAGE TO GENERAL HAIG FOR HIS INFORMATION AND COMMENTS.

MCCLOSKEY UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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